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CROP PRODUCTION

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Iowa **corn** production is forecast at 2.49 billion bushels, 5 percent above the 2014 production and 3 percent above the October forecast according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Crop Production* report. If realized, production will be a record high, topping the previous record set in 2009 by 4 percent. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 189 bushels per acre, 11 bushels above last year and 6 bushels per acre above the October forecast. If realized, the yield will also establish a new record high, exceeding the previous record of 181 bushels per acre set in 2004 and tied in 2009. Acres harvested for grain remain unchanged from October, at 13.2 million acres.

Soybean production is forecast at 550 million bushels, up 10 percent from 2014 and 6 percent above the October forecast. If realized, this will be the highest soybean production on record, 5 percent above the 525 million bushels produced in 2005. The November 1 forecast yield is 56 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels above 2014 and 3.0 bushels above the October forecast. If realized this will be the highest soybean yield on record, 3.5 bushels above 2005. Area harvested remained unchanged from October, at 9.82 million acres.

All crop forecasts in this report are based on November 1 conditions and do not reflect weather effects since that time. The next production estimates will be published in the *Crop Production - 2015 Summary* report which will be released on January 12, 2016.

Area Harvested, Yield, and Production Summary – Iowa and United States: 2014 and Forecasted November 1, 2015

Crop	Area harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	bushels	bushels	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
IOWA						
Corn(bu)	13,300	13,200	178.0	189.0	2,367,400	2,494,800
Soybeans(bu)	9,770	9,820	51.0	56.0	498,270	549,920
UNITED STATES						
Corn(bu)	83,136	80,664	171.0	169.3	14,215,532	13,653,507
Soybeans(bu)	82,591	82,429	47.5	48.3	3,927,090	3,981,337

DISTRICT CROP PRODUCTION

Iowa **corn** production is forecast at 2.49 billion bushels, 5 percent above the 2014 production and 3 percent above the October forecast, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Crop Production* report. If realized, the production will set a new record high, breaking the previous record set in 2009 production by 87.5 million bushels. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 189 bushels per acre, an increase of 11 bushels per acre from last year and up 6 bushels from the October 1 forecast. If realized, the yield will also set a new record high, exceeding the previous record of 181 set in 2004 and tied in 2009. Corn planted and harvested for grain acreage is estimated at 13.6 million and 13.2 million acres, respectively.

Forecasted production is up from 2014 in 6 Iowa districts, while yields are expected to rise in 7 districts. Northeast and Northwest Iowa are anticipated to be tied for the highest yield in the state, with 196 bushels per acre. All three northern Iowa districts and all three central districts are anticipated to have higher yields and production than last year, while South Central and Southeast Iowa are expected to have lower yields and production than last year. The largest increase in yield is expected in Northeast Iowa, where yield is anticipated to increase 15 percent from 2014. The largest decrease in yield is expected in Southeast Iowa, where yield is expected to drop 11 percent from 2014.

Soybean production is forecast at 550 million bushels, up 10 percent from 2014. If realized, this highest soybean production on record, 5 percent above the 525 million bushels produced in 2005. The November 1 forecast yield is 56 bushels per acre, 5.0 bushels above 2014, and up 3.0 bushels from the October 1 forecast. If realized, the yield will also set a new record high, exceeding the previous record of 52.5 set in 2005. Iowa farmers planted 9.90 million acres of soybeans and plan to harvest 9.82 million acres.

Yields are forecasted to be up from 2014 in 7 Iowa districts. Northwest Iowa is expected to have the highest yield in the state, with a yield of 61.5 bushels per acre. All three northern Iowa districts are anticipated to have higher yields and production than last year, while Southwest Iowa is expected to have a lower yield and production than last year. The largest increase in yield is expected in North Central Iowa, where yields are forecasted to average 10.4 bushels per acre more than 2014. The largest decrease in yield is expected in Southwest Iowa, where yields are expected to decline 3.7 bushels per acre from 2014.

All crop forecasts in this report are based on conditions on November 1 and do not reflect weather effects since that time.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Iowa during October 2015 totaled 395 million pounds, up 1 percent from October 2014 according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Milk Production* report. This is the highest October milk production for Iowa since 1967. The average number of milk cows during October, at 210,000 head, was the same as last month but 2,000 more than a year ago. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,880 pounds, up 5 pounds from last October.

Milk Cows and Production – Selected States: October 2014 and 2015

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	195	1,955	1,930	381	376	-1.3
California	1,779	1,777	1,930	1,825	3,433	3,243	-5.5
Colorado	145	145	2,105	2,170	305	315	3.3
Florida	123	125	1,470	1,495	181	187	3.3
Idaho	579	586	2,010	2,010	1,164	1,178	1.2
Illinois	93	94	1,600	1,610	149	151	1.3
Indiana	179	183	1,820	1,850	326	339	4.0
Iowa	208	210	1,875	1,880	390	395	1.3
Kansas	143	143	1,855	1,845	265	264	-0.4
Michigan	397	410	2,055	2,080	816	853	4.5
Minnesota	460	460	1,655	1,685	761	775	1.8
New Mexico	323	323	2,050	1,990	662	643	-2.9
New York	615	620	1,880	1,910	1,156	1,184	2.4
Ohio	267	266	1,685	1,705	450	454	0.9
Oregon	124	123	1,685	1,675	209	206	-1.4
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,680	1,650	890	875	-1.7
South Dakota	97	108	1,860	1,885	180	204	13.3
Texas	470	462	1,825	1,845	858	852	-0.7
Utah	96	96	1,925	1,900	185	182	-1.6
Vermont	132	131	1,680	1,670	222	219	-1.4
Virginia	92	90	1,580	1,590	145	143	-1.4
Washington	275	275	1,995	1,980	549	545	-0.7
Wisconsin	1,272	1,280	1,840	1,910	2,340	2,445	4.5
23-State Total	8,594	8,632	1,864	1,857	16,017	16,028	0.1

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
² Excludes milk sucked by calves

LABOR

There were 34,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Corn Belt 2 Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.03 per hour, down four cents from October 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 37.5 hours in October 2014.

During the reference week of July 12-18, 2015, there were 25,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Corn Belt 2 Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.89 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, down twelve cents from July 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 39.6 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 38.2 hours in July 2014.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Corn Belt II Region and United States: 2014-2015

[Corn Belt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Corn Belt II Region			United States		
	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015
Hired Workers on Farms..... 1,000 workers	25	25	34	782	872	841
Hours worked by Hired Workers hrs/wk	37.5	39.6	41.0	41.3	41.0	41.7
Wage Rate by Work Type ¹						
Field	\$/hr 12.24	12.27	12.82	11.52	11.73	12.11
Livestock	\$/hr 12.12	12.68	12.48	11.29	11.80	12.02
Field & Livestock	\$/hr 12.20	12.45	12.70	11.46	11.75	12.09
All Hired Workers	\$/hr 13.07	12.89	13.03	12.12	12.47	12.82

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

